



Fort **BLISS**



GARRISON COMMAND NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2013



DAYLEY'S UPDATE

This last two months have seen great success for the Fort Bliss Garrison.

To begin with, our employees have begun their mandatory furloughs. Despite the challenge, our employees have been able to keep their morale high, customer service excellent and have prevented any key missions from falling by the wayside. I know the cutbacks are a hardship for the civilian members of our team, but I couldn't be prouder of how they are handling it.

Our Department of Emergency Services have also been hard at work preparing for the cuts it will face. They are working on a unique plan to keep the Security Guards who have served this installation so well employed with Fort Bliss in new capacities.

No matter the cuts and challenges faced by the DES, they must still keep their skills sharp. They recently completed another of their large-scale quarterly training exercises.

Further in this issue of the Fort Bliss Garrison Newsletter, you will read about the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment's efforts to educate deploying and redeploying Soldiers on the resources, education and support available to them. Sticking with DoMaD, you will also learn about one of their outstanding Soldiers and the consistent efforts she makes to go above and beyond.

Last year, Fort Bliss raised \$1 Million through recycling. This year we are on track to save even more. The recycling team is working to celebrate those "recycling heroes" that make significant contributions to the effort.

Fort Bliss is doing great things.



Col. Brant V. Dayley
Fort Bliss Garrison Commander

DES retraining Security Guards for Firefighter positions

In support of Army Transformation, the Directorate of Emergency Services' Table of Distribution and Allowances will change to reflect a reduction of the Security Guard force. These personnel have served as the first line of defense in securing the gates and assets on Fort Bliss for the last ten years. This reduction will negatively impact 161 Security Guard positions as it stands today. Conversely, The Fire and Emergency Services Division is expected to grow by 74 Firefighter positions. In an attempt to minimize the negative impact on Security Guard personnel and save as many jobs as is possible, the Garrison Commander along with the DES are attempting to qualify security guard personnel as firefighters. To date, we have found no precedent of any agency attempting to do this so the process is being created as well as worked diligently.

In order to qualify as a fire fighter, security guard personnel must meet several requirements including successfully completing a 10 event Physical Fitness test; receive their Texas certification as an Emergency Medical Technician, as well as training in Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. They must also be trained and certified at the Fire Fighter I & II level as well as receive their Airport Fire Fighter certification, all of which have to be completed within one year.

While all of the civilian personnel details have yet to be completely worked out, the DES has already started prepping the security guards for the possible transition process through the implementation of the physical fitness test. This has been made possible by the dedicated personnel at Fire Station 4 on Biggs Army Airfield, where they have for the last six weeks set up and run security guard personnel through the physical fitness test thus allowing them to potentially get a head start on attempting to become a fire fighter.

In the end, this is all about saving jobs and taking care of those that are part of the DES as well as the Garrison family. The Garrison Commander, along with the management and staff within the Directorate of Emergency Services are trying creative ways to maximize the opportunity for security guards to retain employment with Fort Bliss.



With the child secured and being escorted to safety, remaining members of the Fort Bliss Special Reaction Team prepare to carry the child's mother away from the scene.



Directorate of Emergency Services conduct quarterly training exercise

Real-life scenario provides valuable training

Donita Kelley
Garrison Public Affairs Office

In a crisis people expect the law enforcement, fire and ambulance officials to handle the situation professionally and efficiently. With quarterly training exercises using various scenarios, the Fort Bliss' Directorate of Emergency Services practices and tests its personnel to be able to handle those real situations.

"Training in any position is an important piece of doing any job and doing it well. In the Emergency Services arena, it is even more so as the implications can be and are usually life saving in nature. As such, training, to include consolidated training with other agencies is an integral part of ensuring that we are prepared and ready to respond to any incident in the fastest and most efficient way possible," stated Deputy Director of Emergency Services Steve Edmunds.

DES personnel conducted their third quarter joint training exercise June 21 at Logan Heights. The scenario: a domestic disturbance that escalated to a hostage situation. The scenario planning began in April. It involved numerous meetings with DES, both law enforcement and fire, Military Police Investigations, 93rd Military Police Battalion, Criminal Investigations Division, Special Reaction Team, Explosive Ordnance Disposal,

Emergency Medical Technicians, American Red Cross, and Garrison Public Affairs.

The planning sessions ensured the scenario was realistic and would test the role players' skills. Only the organizers knew the specifics of the scenario prior to the training date.

Being a domestic disturbance, the location was a set of unoccupied quarters at Logan Heights. The day prior, area residents received flyers about the exercise, its specific location and that it would be on Friday.

The scenario incorporated the American Red Cross, allowing them to perform not only training but real-world relief efforts, such as providing water and lunch (donated by Texas Roadhouse) to the role players. The ARC provides a service called the Safe and Well program which allows people inside a disaster-affected area to communicate with loved ones outside. The service uses the ARC's Internet site, www.redcross.org/safeandwell, and, if the registrant has a Facebook or Twitter account, ARC's site can populate messages on those as well.

"Safe and Well is always available. Access to the Website is made available at shelters, service delivery sites and many partner agency locations. During large-scale

disasters, when Internet and phone lines may be compromised, trained volunteers can help you register using a paper form," said Mike Peoples, interim chapter disaster manager, El Paso Area Chapter.

"It is an interesting program that we have never tried to use before. There were several families that registered during the exercise and used the website. We appreciate their participation and validation of the program," said Maj. Vicky Scragg, operations officer, Provost Marshal's Office.

Volunteers played the parts of the family members involved in the domestic disturbance.

For the first time, the family in the scenario included a child role player, played by DES's Jeff Sagan's twin 10-year-old sons. The boys played the same role in the scenario and were able to switch out as role player during the exercise as needed.

Planning efforts paid off in the exercise.

"The exercise tested a lot of our capabilities and adaptability to different conditions. It was a great exercise that gave us good training and pointed out areas that we need to address," stated Deputy Installation Provost Marshal Maj. Brian Heverly.



RECYCLE HEROES HANGING AROUND FORT BLISS

The Fort Bliss Qualified Recycling Program has recognized about 60 individuals and groups as Recycle Heroes for their efforts to recycle right and recycle more. Coming soon, posters featuring these Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors and Retail Partners as Recycle Heroes will be displayed in the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) poster frames across the installation.

Lilia Lenhart, DPW-E Qualified Recycling Program Manager, said, "While most of our community contributes greatly to the installation's recycling goals, these individuals and groups have gone beyond recycling to actually serving as role models." Lenhart stated, "SGT Jeremy Gordon, 2-43 ADA, not only serves as his Unit's recycle coordinator, he actually puts on the costume and volunteers as the Recycle Hero at Fort Bliss outreach events." Sheri Bondurant, DOL, is the recycle coordinator in her building and hosts regular training to make sure that her team continues to recycle right.

Additionally, the firemen from Fire Station 1 ensure that recycling is a top priority at their station. Lenhart also said, "Even families contribute to the recycling message." DPW-E GIS Specialist Yvette Waychus, her husband and three children have volunteered for the past five years to collect recyclables at the Amigo Airsho. Collecting recyclables at the Amigo Airsho diverted waste and raised funds to be used to benefit Soldiers and Families. Recycling at Fort Bliss public events also demonstrates that caring for the

environment is one of our priorities.

Ms. Lenhart said, "We thank everyone at Fort Bliss who does the right thing by placing recyclables in the blue recycling bin." It is the efforts of all of us working together that we are able to meet recycling mandates that are set by the Department of Defense and this conserves natural resources for the future.

Last year, the Fort Bliss community raised \$1 Million by recycling. Those funds were used to benefit Soldiers and Families through quality of life projects through MWR. Some of the projects included 36 spin bikes for Stout Gym and outdoor exercise equipment at Biggs Park. Park improvements also included resurfacing the playgrounds out of old tires making it safer for children to play. The funds were also used to purchase a Kiddie Recycle Railroad so children can learn about recycling as they ride around Biggs Park. This year's goal of \$1.5 Million in recyclables will be used to make additional Fort Bliss community improvements.

We hope that these posters will remind everyone to be a Recycle Hero. All they have to do to be a recycle hero is to place PAPER, PLASTICS, ALUMINUM & TIN in any blue recycling bin.

Look for the Recycle Hero posters hanging in your area. Maybe someone from your group is featured!





DoMaD Soldier goes beyond call of duty

Claudia R. Kennedy,
DoMaD Public Affairs

Army values are the foundation of every Soldier. From day one of basic training and throughout their Army career, actions of a Soldier revolve around these principles. Some Soldiers even go above and beyond set expectations.

Sgt. Jaki Johnson, chaplain assistant for the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, exemplifies Army values and surpasses her duty and selfless service.

As a chaplain assistant, Johnson's job requires her to support the chaplain and everyday activities of the unit ministry team mission, programs and worship services. Johnson performs this job with ease, but always wants to do more.

Johnson, a Reservist from Baltimore, mobilized to Fort Bliss Dec. 4, 2011. Almost immediately, she started volunteering at the USO every week and currently has almost 200 hours of volunteer time.

After becoming familiar with the USO programs, one in particular sparked Johnson's interest. USO's United through Reading program allows a Soldier to digitally record themselves reading a children's book with a personal message at the end. The DVD and book is mailed to the child when the Soldier deploys.

Johnson saw the importance of bringing this program to McGregor Range, N.M., where thousands of Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen can utilize the program.

"She was the driving force behind it," said Eva M. Gonzalez, USO volunteer coordinator. "She got DoMaD leadership in touch with USO leadership."

DoMaD's Mayor Cell currently runs the UTR program at McGregor Range, and since its start last August, it is the most successful site in the country.

For her efforts and involvement, Johnson received the USO El Paso Outstanding Military Volunteer for 2012. Even more, Johnson was one of five Soldiers honored as the 2013 Fort Bliss Volunteer of the Year for her overall substantial contribution to the USO and to the quality of life within the Fort Bliss community.

"Jaki is one of those outstanding folks that go above and



beyond all the time," said Gonzalez. "It's just her natural way of being. She always has a smile on her face, always wants to help and go the extra mile."

Last June, Johnson single handedly coordinated a movie night at Stayton Theater with a free screening of Captain America, free pizza and other treats for mobilizing and demobilizing Guard and Reserve Soldiers processing through Fort Bliss.

Johnson also started a holiday card program, providing free greeting cards and postage for hundreds of Guard and Reserve Soldiers.

Because of her outstanding volunteer work and selfless service over the past year, Johnson was awarded an Army Achievement Medal, April 26.

"Sergeant Johnson has impacted the morale of the Soldiers here in the DoMaD and throughout Fort Bliss," said Maj. Artie C. Maxwell, Jr., DoMaD chaplain.

He added, Johnson's volunteer spirit helps improve the quality of life for deploying Soldiers and their families.

As Johnson's time with DoMaD comes to an end, she is preparing for a possible deployment overseas. Reflecting on the past year and the things she has done, Johnson remains humble.

"The things that I do, I don't feel like it's enough. I feel like I could be doing more," said Johnson.



Human Resources Information Technology Solutions

The Directorate of Human Resources is at the forefront of developing innovative solutions to provide standardized, effective, and efficient Human Resources services to Soldiers, Families, and Civilians of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss in support of the Most Optimal Strategic Responsive mission. The DHR Team is dedicated to providing cohesive, collaborative, and quality personnel customer service.

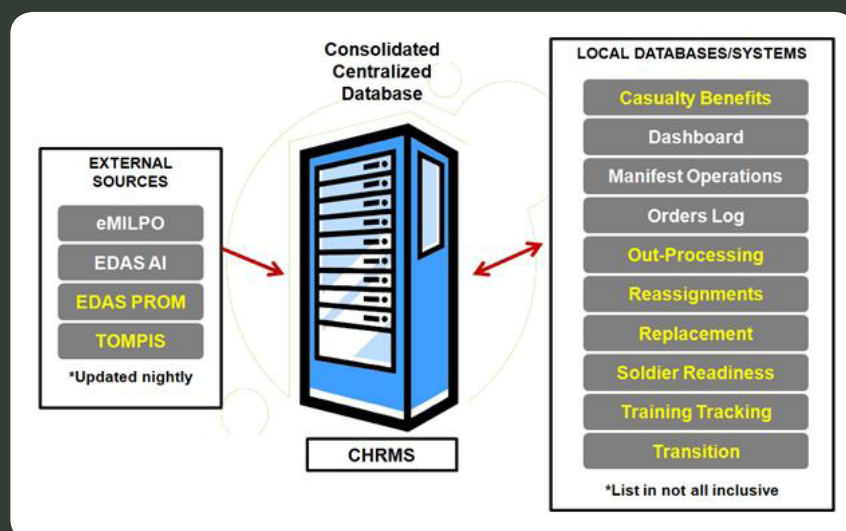
A bridging element is developing information technology solutions to legacy Human Resources business processes to provide more timely and efficient In/Out Processing, Reassignments, Transition, and other Human Resources processes. On-going for over a year has been initial development and testing of the Consolidated Human Resources Management System, designed to have full operational capability with a trusted one-source automated data system. The CHRMS is planned to replace legacy processes with automated program solutions while realizing process cost savings and/or avoidance. The system will capture customer data, provide statistical output and outcome information, improve work efficiency, manage customer flow and service activity, and generate management reporting tools. The CHRMS Technology Team continues to make progress and plans to implement full operational capability in FY14.

Concept

- An expedient access to real-time data to support changing missions.
- Centralize the repository of data to give greater fidelity to performance data.
- Develop programs that track activity costs and workforce efficiency in daily operations.
- Comprehensive data for management decisions affecting manpower and funding requirements.
- Low cost, expandability, modular, and ease of use collection and processing tools.

Benefits

- One source data system resulting in improved consistency, accuracy, and real-time data.
- External sources constantly updated on a nightly basis and intra-dependent of HQDA personnel data base system.
- Allows for immediate identification of issues.
- Due to modular design CHRMS can easily be modified and/or added upon when a need is identified without having to take down the entire system.
- New databases and web portals can easily be designed in the system.





Fort Bliss to get **first** DAGIR

The Digital Air-Ground Integration Range at Fort Bliss Army is the U.S. military's first fully computerized target practice range. Facility construction for the DAGIR began in 2011 with completion scheduled for 2014. There are currently 5 DAGIRs scheduled to be built in the Army. While Aviation can conduct tables on DMPCRs, there is substantial additional effort required for targetry, scoring, and firing position establishment. The range will include 23 miles of tank trails, 264 pre-cast concrete targets and six support buildings. The facility is used to train U.S. soldiers and the armies of several U.S. allies for combat missions on the ground and from the air.

Army Aviation gunnery training requirements changed dramatically as a result of 9/11. In addition to hovering engagements, running/diving fire must be trained. Today's Common Operating Environment requires seamless air/ground integration in complex terrain. Ground forces, mounted or dismounted, frequently call for attack helicopter fires to solve complex tactical problems. These and other challenges are the foundation of the teamed effort to define COE air/ground integration training requirements. The proponent endorsed DAGIR White Paper defines requirements and establishes a facility placement concept.

DAGIRs support crew qualification, the foundation of any gunnery program. It provides the requisite maneuver area to enable lead-wing high energy engagements during Table X and Joint combined arms training during Table XII. These capabilities will gain importance as we move to Joint interdependence. Even now, air/ground integration issues repeatedly surface during Joint, Army, Air Force, and Marine doctrinal working groups. DAGIR facility capabilities/components will do much to answer these issues. Overarching coordination between Live Training Division, all involved agencies, and material providers must continue to ensure the success of these facilities





Chap. (Maj.) Artie C. Maxwell Jr., chaplain for the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, briefs Soldiers returning from deployment at the Departure Arrival Control Group building on East Bliss. Maxwell reminds them that they need to continue to look out for each other, even off the battlefield, in terms of mental health and overall well-being.

Mental health matters

Claudia R. Kennedy
DoMaD Public Affairs

The Army's theme for mental health is "Breaking the Silence." Through education, awareness and a strong Army support system, the Army can get one step closer to breaking the silence by encouraging discussion between Soldiers, leaders, families, civilians, and the community.

Fort Bliss has been a lead proponent on mental health matters offering a variety of programs and support for Soldiers, their family, civilians and contractors. Active duty units have the Embedded Behavioral Health program at their battalion, and Soldiers are required to attend Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

For National Guard and Reserve service members demobilizing at Fort Bliss, representatives at the Soldier Resilience and Readiness Center supports, advocates and guides Soldiers as they make their transition back into civilian life to ensure they have access to proper care when they get home. They go as far as following up with the Soldier up to six months after being released from active duty.

With the vast array of behavioral health services from theater combat and operational stress control, routine behavioral healthcare, periodic assessments and prevention programs, the Army is taking a step in the right direction in addressing mental health.

To take a step even further, Maj. Artie C. Maxwell Jr., chaplain for the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, emphasizes that we need to acknowledge mental health and remember to care about our Soldiers and take time to talk to them. With fifteen years as an Army chaplain and with four

deployments under his belt, Maxwell has seen it all and admits that he needed to seek help at one point.

"I found that it was most helpful to talk about it, open up and let my true feelings out. I'm a better person because I acknowledged it" said Maxwell.

Maxwell briefs all service members at the Departure Arrival Control Group building before they board their plane to deploy and when they return from deployment. His captivating briefs are straightforward, acknowledging that everyone needs to look out for one another. He is not afraid to address suicide. Maxwell sees the same group of Soldiers at the SRRC again where he goes into more depth about morals, morale, and touches on mental health. Through his "ministry of presence," he walks throughout the DACG, the DoMaD footprint, and the SRRC making his presence known if anyone needs to talk.

As a community, Maxwell says we can break the silence if we stop hiding it under the table.

"Acknowledge Soldiers where they are, and show genuine concern. People don't know how much you know, until they know how much you care," said Maxwell. When Soldiers know that you care enough about them, they will want to be better Soldiers.

"Not all of them come out a hundred percent better, but we hope that they do," said Maxwell.

If you need some help, more information, or just need to talk, services are available:

- 24 hour Chaplain Line: 637-4265
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800)273-TALK
- Military One Source: (800)342-9647 www.militaryonesource.com
- Wounded Soldier & Family Hotline: (800)984-8523



FT. BLISS FIRE STATION 1



**CAPTAIN
RICHARD CHAVARIN**

**FIREFIGHTER
TONY ROMAN**

**LIEUTENANT
FELIPE CHAVIRA**

**FIREFIGHTER
JOSE (JC) LUCERO**



I AM A RECYCLE HERO...

are you?

RECYCLE RIGHT - RECYCLE MORE!

PLACE PAPER, PLASTIC, ALUMINUM & TIN IN ANY BLUE RECYCLING BIN